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42. (New) The remote system of Claim 39 further comprising a connector operable to connect the remote system to a network for retrieval of information therefrom in response to a user request.

43. (New) The remote system of Claim 39 wherein the transceiver comprises a telephone line card.

44. (New) The remote system of Claim 39 wherein the processing component is operable to process feature parameters which have been extracted from the speech input by the local device.

45. (New) The system of Claim 41 wherein the user and the local device engage in a series of speech inputs and responses.

 CANCEL CLAIMS 46 – 47

48. (Currently Amended) ~~The distributed voice user interface system of Claim 46 A~~
remote network for a distributed voice user interface comprising:
a transceiver for communicating with a local device, the transceiver operable to receive
speech input issued by a user at the local device, the local device operable to
perform a first level of speech recognition on the speech input;
a processing facility coupled to the transceiver and having a plurality of physically
distributed processing units, the processing facility operable to perform a second
level of speech recognition on the speech input;
wherein the processing facility is operable to receive the buffered speech input from the
local device and to recognize words in the speech input;
wherein the local device comprises a first speech generating engine operable to generate
speech output; and
wherein the remote network comprises a second speech generation engine operable to
generate speech output.

49. (Previously Added) The distributed voice under interface system of Claim 48
wherein the speech output generated by the second speech generation engine is consistent with
speech output generated by the first speech generation engine.

50. (New) A method comprising:

scanning speech input issued by a user at a local device for a keyword;

initiating a connection between the local device and a remote system when the keyword is detected;

passing the speech input from the local device to the remote system for interpretation.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50 further comprising buffering the speech input at the local device.

52. (New) The method of Claim 50 further comprising interpreting the passed speech input at the remote system.

53. (New) The method of Claim 50 further comprising transmitting a response from the remote system to the local device.

54. (New) The method of Claim 53 wherein the response is based upon an interpretation of the passed speech.

55. (New) A method comprising:
scanning speech input issued by a user at a local device for a keyword;
initiating a connection between the local device and a remote system when the keyword is detected;
storing a portion of the speech input into a memory of the device; and
transmitting the stored portion of the speech input from the local device to the remote system.

56. (New) The method of Claim 55 further comprising scanning the transmitted portion at the remote device for keywords.

57. (New) The method of Claim 56 further comprising sending a control signal the local device in order to trigger the local device to generate speech.

58. (New) The method of Claim 56 further comprising generating speech at the remote system and transmitting the speech to the local device.